

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the eleventh annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa at the African Union headquarters on 8 September 2017.

Following the consultative meeting, the members of the two Councils agreed upon a joint communiqué (see annex).

I convey this joint communiqué to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the Security Council body that engaged with African Union colleagues on the attached text.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Tekeda Alemu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-09559 (E) 180618



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Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

1. The African Union Peace and Security Council and the members of the United Nations Security Council held their 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting at the African Union (AU) Headquarters, on 8 September 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided for in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes.
3. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reviewed matters of peace and security in Africa, in particular, the situation in South Sudan, Somalia and the Lake Chad Basin. They seized the opportunity offered by the 2nd Informal Meeting held on the eve of the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting to assess the partnership between the AU and the United Nations (UN), discussed funding for AU peace and security activities and best means and ways of further strengthening their partnership and deepening cooperation in the area of peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa.
4. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council resolved to forge a more coherent and effective partnership and stressed that common and coordinated efforts undertaken by the two Councils, in matters of peace and security should be based on their comparative advantages, as well as their respective authorities, competencies and capacities.
5. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the signing on 19 April 2017, in New York, of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security by the leadership of the two organizations, which will be instrumental in addressing challenges of promoting peace and security in the African continent across the whole conflict cycle.
6. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council further reaffirmed the partnership in the field of women, peace and security and the important role of women and youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace building and stressed the importance of their meaningful participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.
7. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed deep concern over the impact of ongoing crises and conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad Basin and exchanged views on ways and means of enhancing their cooperation in addressing these conflicts and their consequences.

On the situation in South Sudan

8. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern over the continued fighting and inter-communal violence in South Sudan, which is taking a heavy toll on the civilian population and has resulted in growing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as refugees in

neighbouring states. They underlined that there can be no viable military solution to the current conflict and urged all parties to renounce violence and recommit themselves to achieving a permanent ceasefire and the resumption of a political process to find a lasting solution to the current crisis through a genuine and all-inclusive national dialogue. The two Councils condemned in the strongest terms the violence and armed clashes that continue to be perpetrated by parties to the conflict. They expressed deep alarm at the numerous and ongoing reports of sexual and gender based violence, the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and called for those responsible to be held accountable. In this regard, they stressed the imperative of prioritizing national reconciliation, healing and justice, as well as taking all the necessary steps towards the establishment of the Hybrid Court, including mobilization of its funding, with a view to bring sustainable peace and stability in the country.

9. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the continued international, regional and sub-regional engagement in South Sudan including the visit of the Chairperson of the AU Commission to South Sudan in March 2017. The two Councils reiterated their support for the efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and took note of the progress made in the implementation of the decision of the 31st Extraordinary Summit of IGAD held on 12 June 2017 on the convening of the High-level Revitalization Forum of the parties to the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, including estranged groups, to restore the permanent ceasefire, to fully implement the Peace Agreement and to develop a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule towards a free, fair and credible democratic election at the end of the transition period. They also took note of the completion of the pre-convening phase and looked forward to the expeditious convening of the High-level Revitalization Forum. They urged all parties to participate constructively in the Forum. Furthermore, they encouraged continued close collaboration among the IGAD, AU and UN in line with the spirit of the joint press statement of 29 January 2017.

10. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the 24 July 2017 meeting of the Regional Chiefs of Defense Staff to discuss all outstanding issues and determine a definitive timeline for the full deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Regional Protection Force (RPF). They underlined the need to urge the parties to the conflict to extend full cooperation towards UNMISS, and the deployment of the RPF. They underscored the importance of these regional efforts in resolving the conflict in South Sudan and urged coordination of the various political initiatives being undertaken.

11. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern at the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as refugees in neighbouring states and acknowledged the continued humanitarian support being extended by the international community to the population of South Sudan affected by violence and severe food insecurity. They urged the parties to the conflict to allow safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance and to cease attacks against humanitarian aid agencies and workers. They appealed to the international community to continue its effort and to also assist in alleviating the burden of the neighbouring countries that continue to receive and host huge numbers of refugees from South Sudan. They commended all members of the international community who have been providing support for AU efforts in addressing the current crisis in South Sudan and called on them to continue their support.

On the situation in Somalia

12. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in Somalia in the political and state-institutions building processes. In particular, they welcomed the conclusion of the electoral process in Somalia and the election of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo on 8 February 2017 for a four-year term, the swift appointment of a Federal Government, the increased representation of women in the Federal Parliament and Government, the increased participation and representation of the people of Somalia in the electoral process, and the peaceful transfer of power. They recognized that this is a critical moment for Somalia, welcomed the New Partnership for Somalia and the Security Pact adopted by Somalia and International partners on 11 May 2017 at the London Conference on Somalia and underscored the importance of effective implementation and mutual accountability. They expressed grave concern at the worsening humanitarian crisis and renewed risk of famine in Somalia and commended the Federal Government of Somalia's response and AMISOM's facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance in support of the Somali authorities.

13. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the importance of governing in a spirit of national unity in an inclusive manner and of adhering to the political roadmap in order to reach one-person, one-vote elections in four years' time. They encouraged the Federal Government of Somalia to promote a comprehensive reconciliation process that brings about local, regional, and national cohesion and integration in a climate of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, establish an effective federal political system, conclude constitutional review processes including on resource and revenue sharing, and improve accountability of Somali institutions especially on anti-corruption issues. They also emphasized the importance of women participation in these processes.

14. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed grave concern regarding the security situation in Somalia. They reiterated their strong condemnation of attacks by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. They underlined that this group continues to pose a serious threat in Somalia and urged Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) to take full and effective control of areas liberated from Al-Shabaab. In this regard, they welcomed and encouraged the efforts made by the Federal Government of Somalia and Somali Federal States to strengthen and establish professional, inclusive and accountable security forces; encouraged the Government to intensify those efforts; and, implement Somalia's national strategy and action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism in order to strengthen Somalia's capacity to prevent and counter terrorism and, urged Member States of the United Nations and of the African Union to contribute to this process within the framework of the "Comprehensive Approach to Security". They stressed the need for coordination of efforts among international actors in the area of capacity-building and training for the SNSF, which will further pave the way for the successful transition of security responsibility from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the SNSF, as recommended by the joint AU-UN strategic review of AMISOM conducted from 15 to 29 May 2017 and requested by Security Council Resolution 2372 (2017).

15. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the continued engagement by the AU Commission and the United Nations, including the visit by the Chairperson of the AU Commission on 18 March 2017 and that of the Secretary General of the United Nations on 07 March 2017, to Mogadishu and the field mission of the Peace and Security Council, undertaken from 23 to 26 March 2017, which were followed by the official visit, on 4 May 2017, to the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, by President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo

where the AU and the Federal Government of Somalia launched the Joint AU-Somalia Task Force to enhance coordination between the various partners in support of Somalia's National Security Architecture (NSA).

16. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the agreement on the Somalia National Security Architecture endorsed by the National Security Council on 8 May 2017, and the Federal Government of Somalia's commitment to conduct a conditions-based, gradual handover of security from AMISOM to the Somali National Security Forces, including conducting joint operations with AMISOM in order to become the primary security provider in Somalia. They urged Member States of the United Nations and of the African Union to contribute to this process and called up on the Federal Government of Somalia to swiftly implement the National Security Architecture.

17. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended and paid tribute to AMISOM and its troop and police contributing countries, as well as to the Somali National Security Forces for their sacrifices and efforts in the fight against Al-Shabaab. They acknowledged the critical role of AMISOM to lasting peace and stability in Somalia and welcomed the outcome of the 2017 joint UN-AU strategic review, which was focused on addressing the financial, logistical and operational challenges facing AMISOM.

18. The Peace and Security Council underscored their desire for the provision of more sustainable, predictable and effective support from UN assessed contributions to AMISOM at this critical phase of its operations. It also emphasized the importance of enhancing command and control, generating additional forces, enablers and multipliers and improving coordination within AMISOM.

19. The members of the Security Council stressed the need to enhance predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and under the Security Council's authority consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, urged relevant partners to explore in earnest funding arrangements for AMISOM, bearing in mind the full range of options available to the United Nations, African Union, the European Union, and other partners, and considering the limitations of voluntary funding, that has already been provided by some partners in order to establish secure future funding arrangements for AMISOM, and looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the future funding of AMISOM. The members of the Security Council reiterated calls for the AU to consider how to provide sustainable funding for AMISOM, and underlined the AU's call for its Member States to provide financial support to AMISOM.

On the situation in the Lake Chad Basin

20. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed grave concern at the ongoing terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, and the dire humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin caused by the activities of Boko Haram, including large-scale displacement. In this regard, they recognized the connection between trafficking in persons and drugs, sexual violence, illicit arms flows and terrorism and other transnational organized criminal activities, which can prolong and exacerbate conflict and instability or intensify its impact on civilian populations. They emphasized the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region and emphasized the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by Governments and the United Nations relating to these factors.

21. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council affirmed their solidarity and full support for the affected populations in the Region

and with the respective Governments in their efforts to address urgent needs of these populations, whilst addressing adverse economic conditions. They welcomed the commitment expressed by the Governments in the Region to combat Boko Haram in order to create a safe and secure environment for civilians, enable the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees, facilitate stabilization and enable access for humanitarian organizations and the important territorial advances made by the Governments in the Region against Boko Haram through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and payed tribute to all those who have lost lives in the fight against Boko Haram. They welcomed the adoption of the UNSCR 2359/2017 welcoming the deployment of the Group of Five for the Sahel States (G5 Sahel) joint forces for the restoration of peace and security in the Sahel Region.

22. The Peace and Security Council and the Members of the Security Council called on the Governments in the Region to ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

23. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council affirmed the primary responsibility of Member States to protect civilian populations in their territories, in accordance with their obligations under international law, and called on the Governments of the Region, and as relevant the United Nations and other actors to prioritize human rights protection concerns.

24. The Peace and Security Council and Members of the Security Council encouraged Governments in the Region to ensure women's full and equal participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, including in countering Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. They welcomed the initial efforts in the Region to address women's representation, and strongly encouraged the further development, implementation and funding of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and the Republic of Benin. They encouraged all Regional organizations engaged in peace and security efforts in the Region to ensure that gender analysis and women's participation are integrated into their assessments, planning and operations.

25. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council recalled all communiqués of the Peace and Security Council on Boko Haram, including that of its 484th meeting held on 29 January 2015 and they recognized the continued support of the AU as well as other international partners to the MNJTF. They welcomed and encouraged the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LBC) and Benin to continue their efforts in the fight against Boko Haram and implementation of the AUPSC communiqués and acknowledged the need for an effective and strategic relationship between the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, to enable both institutions to support stability and development in the Lake Chad Basin.

26. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the efforts of Governments in the Region and of regional and subregional organizations, as well as the hospitality provided by host communities for the millions of displaced people, the majority of whom are women and children, who are uniquely impacted, and urges Governments in the Region, donors and relevant international non-governmental organizations to urgently redouble their efforts and ensure close coordination, including between development and humanitarian actors, in particular to enhance early recovery, food security, improve living conditions, and increase livelihood opportunities.

27. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council further welcomed the \$672 million in humanitarian assistance pledged at the Oslo

Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region held on 24 February 2017 and urged swift fulfilment of these pledges and the disbursement of funds, in order to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis and to begin to address endemic development needs. They encouraged the international community's greater support to strengthen the operational capability of the MNJTF to further the Region's efforts to combat Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. They commended the international community for its continued support and appealed for further support in order to enable the MNJTF to more effectively discharge its mandate. Furthermore, they urged members of the international community to provide support in a way that directly responds to the needs highlighted in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plans of each country of the region.

28. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed continued regional and international efforts towards promoting peace, security and stability in the Lake Chad Basin. They welcomed, in particular, the visit to the region by the members of the Security Council, in March 2017 and by the Peace and Security Council in July 2017. They encouraged the United Nations Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the President of the World Bank Group, and the President of the African Development Bank to undertake a joint visit to strengthen the focus on and commitment to the Region by the international community and mobilize resources.

29. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council encouraged the Governments of the Lake Chad Basin, MNJTF, regional organizations, and the broader international community to redouble their efforts on all fronts, in order to ensure not only the defeat of Boko Haram, but also to ensure that the root causes of the crisis are holistically addressed. In this context, they encouraged the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), together with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to develop a comprehensive and common strategy that effectively addresses the drivers that contributed to the emergence of Boko Haram and ISIL, with a particular focus on longer term development needs.

30. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council agreed to convene their 12th annual joint consultative meeting in 2018, in New York, United States of America, on a date to be mutually agreed.

**General Assembly
Security Council**

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Security Council
Seventy-third year

**Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith the record of the ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani armed forces along the State border of the Republic of Armenia during the month of May 2018 (see annex I).*

I am also transmitting herewith the record of the ceasefire violations by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the line of contact with the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic) registered by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Artsakh during the month of May 2018 (see annex II).*

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher Margaryan
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The annexes are being circulated in the language of submission only.



**Annex I to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of
Azerbaijan along the State border with the Republic of Armenia,
1–31 May 2018**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Type of weapons/shots</i>
1 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	5	Small arms and light weapons: 102
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 30
	Kolagir	1	
	N. Karmiraghbyur	1	
	Vazashen	1	
	Geghamasar	1	
2 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	11	Small arms and light weapons: 238
	Chinari	8	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 1
	Aygedzor	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 15
	Kutakan	1	
3 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	3	Small arms and light weapons: 98
	Movses	1	
	Berkaber	1	
	Geghamasar	1	
4 May	Tavush, Gegharkunik and Ararat regions	6	Small arms and light weapons: 43
	Chinari	3	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 11
	Artanish	1	Grenade launchers: 3
	Vahan	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
5 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	4	Small arms and light weapons: 31
	Kolagir	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 37
	Berkaber	1	
	Artanish	1	
	Vahan	1	
6 May	Tavush region	2	Small arms and light weapons: 17
	Aygepar	1	
	Voskevan	1	
7 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	3	Small arms and light weapons: 65
	Movses	1	
	Kakhakan	1	
	Artanish	1	
8 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	3	Small arms and light weapons: 43
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 8 (Aygedzor: 3;
	Aygedzor	1	Geghamasar: 5)
	Geghamasar	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 50
9 May	Tavush and Syunik regions	4	Small arms and light weapons: 20
	Aygedzor	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 30
	Berkaber	1	
	Agarak	1	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Type of weapons/shots</i>
10 May	Gegharkunik and Syunik regions	2	Small arms and light weapons: 23
	Chambarak	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5
	Arevis	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 55 (Chambarak)
11 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	6	Small arms and light weapons: 60
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 62
	Berdavan	2	
	Kolagir	1	
	Tsapatagh	1	
	Jil	1	
12 May	Tavush region	1	Small arms and light weapons: 7
	Chinari	1	
13 May	Tavush region	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 12
	Barekamavan	1	
14 May	There were no shots		
15 May	Tavush region	1	Small arms and light weapons: 1
	Chinari	1	
16 May	Tavush region	3	Small arms and light weapons: 20
	Aygedzor	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 30
	Paravakar	1	
	Vazashen	1	
17 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	2	Small arms and light weapons: 43
	Paravakar	1	
	Vahan	1	
18 May	Tavush and Syunik regions	10	Small arms and light weapons: 204
	Aygedzor	2	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 18
	Chinari	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 30
	Paravakar	4	
	Vazashen	1	
	Agarak	1	
19 May	Tavush region	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 20
	Paravakar	1	
	Vazashen	1	
20 May	Tavush and Ararat regions	3	Small arms and light weapons: 10
	Aygedzor	1	
	Yeraskh	2	
21 May	Tavush and Ararat regions	2	Small arms and light weapons: 10
	Kayan	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 10 (Zangakatun)
	Zangakatun	1	
22 May	Tavush and Ararat regions	8	Small arms and light weapons: 12
	Chinari	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5
	Berdavan	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 42 (Zangakatun)
	Yeraskh	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 100
	Zangakatun	4	
23 May	Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions	10	Small arms and light weapons: 94
	Vazashen	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Paruyr Sevak)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Type of weapons/shots</i>
	Barekamavan	1	
	Jivanavan	1	
	Bardzruni	1	
	Paruyr Sevak	4	
	Zangakatun	2	
24 May	Tavush and Gegharkunik regions	2	Small arms and light weapons: 15
	Baghanis	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 20
	Avazan	1	
25 May	Tavush and Ararat regions	9	Small arms and light weapons: 123
	Aygedzor	3	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 36
	Aygepar	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 5
	N. Karmiraghbyur	1	Artillery: 25
	Vazashen	2	
	Berdavan	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
26 May	Tavush and Vayots Dzor regions	2	Small arms and light weapons: 30
	Berdavan	1	
	Areni	1	
27 May	Ararat region	3	Small arms and light weapons: 102
	Zangakatun	3	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 90 Large-calibre machine guns: 70
28 May	Tavush, Vayots Dzor, Gegharkunik and Ararat regions	11	Small arms and light weapons: 202 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4
	Paravakar	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 6 (Geghamasar)
	Kayan	2	
	Areni	1	
	Geghamasar	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
	Zangakatun	3	
	Paruyr Sevak	1	
	Yelpin	1	
29 May	Tavush, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions	12	Small arms and light weapons: 111 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 12
	Chinari	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 11
	Aygepar	2	
	Geghamasar	3	
	Areni	3	
	Chiva	2	
30 May	There were no shots		
31 May	Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions	8	Small arms and light weapons: 59
	Aygedzor	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6
	Movses	1	
	Dovegh	1	
	Baghanis	1	
	Khndzorut	1	
	Areni	2	
	Zangakatun	1	

**Annex II to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of
Azerbaijan on the line of contact with the Republic of Artsakh
(Nagorno Karabakh Republic), 1–31 May 2018**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Type of weapons/shots</i>
1 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	20	Small arms and light weapons: 123 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 19 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 23 (Jraberd)
2 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	15	Small arms and light weapons: 149 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Jraberd) Large-calibre machine guns: 5 Anti-aircraft systems: 1 (Marzili)
3 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	18	Small arms and light weapons: 133 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3
4 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	18	Small arms and light weapons: 392 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 11
5 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 696 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 19
6 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	39	Small arms and light weapons: 804 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 14 (Ashagi Veysali: 10; Kengerli: 3; Verin Chaylu: 1)
7 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 139 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 28
8 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 331 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 23 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Mrov)
9 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	10	Small arms and light weapons: 55 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 17
10 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	18	Small arms and light weapons: 276 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 17
11 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	12	Small arms and light weapons: 63 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Jraberd)
12 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	10	Small arms and light weapons: 69
13 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	13	Small arms and light weapons: 170
14 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 466 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 11 Large-calibre machine guns: 10
15 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	25	Small arms and light weapons: 198 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 1 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Gjulistan) Large-calibre machine guns: 5

<i>Date</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Type of weapons/shots</i>
16 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	17	Small arms and light weapons: 127 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 11 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 14 (Karakhanbeyli: 5; Kengerli: 6; Levonarkh: 3)
17 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	37	Small arms and light weapons: 263 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 8 (Kengerli)
18 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	32	Small arms and light weapons: 198 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 22 (Ashaghi Seydakhmedli: 17; Nuzger: 5)
19 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	29	Small arms and light weapons: 321 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6 Grenade launchers: 6
20 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	8	Small arms and light weapons: 26 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 2
21 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	16	Small arms and light weapons: 370 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5
22 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	10	Small arms and light weapons: 89 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9
23 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 179 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 8 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Kengerli)
24 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	16	Small arms and light weapons: 187 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 14 (Jraber)
25 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	23	Small arms and light weapons: 197 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 19 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 14 (Kengerli: 5; Sarijanli: 2; Jraber: 7)
26 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	13	Small arms and light weapons: 190 Large-calibre machine guns: 5
27 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	31	Small arms and light weapons: 276 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 31 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 7 (Jraber)
28 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	19	Small arms and light weapons: 188 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Kengerli)
29 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	31	Small arms and light weapons: 306 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 34 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 7 (Kengerli)
30 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	17	Small arms and light weapons: 133 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 7 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Karakhanbeyli)
31 May	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	26	Small arms and light weapons: 306 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 12 (Kengerli)

During the reporting period, one soldier of the Defence Army of Artsakh was wounded by gunfire from the Azerbaijani side.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General

11 June 2018

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-second session**

Agenda item 72 (c)

**Promotion and protection of human rights:
human rights situations and reports of special
rapporteurs and representatives**

Security Council

Seventy-third year

**Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the Moscow City Court decision on the case of Roman Sushchenko, who is being unlawfully detained in the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr Yelchenko
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding Moscow City Court decision on the case of Roman Sushchenko, who is being unlawfully detained in Russia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest against the unlawful decision of the Moscow City Court to sentence Ukrainian journalist Roman Sushchenko to 12 years in a maximum security prison on the fabricated charges of "spying".

The court's disregard of the facts of provocations against Roman Sushchenko as well as gross falsifications of the case, which were proven by defence, is yet another demonstration of the lack of justice in the Russian Federation.

Cynical dismissal by Russia of the fundamental human rights reflects the necessity to strengthen international pressure upon Moscow in order to stop its aggression, repressions and infringements of Ukrainian citizens.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demands that the Russian side immediately abolishes this groundless judgment, releases Roman Sushchenko and provides for his unobstructed return back to Ukraine.

We call on the world community, international human rights organizations to take all possible measures to expedite the release and return to Ukraine of Roman Sushchenko and other Ukrainian citizens, who have become hostages of the Kremlin regime in Russia's ongoing aggression against our country.



Security Council

Distr.: General
13 June 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 11 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 9 to 11 June 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia

18-09749 (E) 140618 180618



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Annex to the letter dated 11 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (9 June 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhikiyah Governorate and two in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Aleppo Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Babila, Rif Dimashq Governorate. In total, 445 food parcels were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,832 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,607.26 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 105 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 83,241 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,515.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (10 June 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported nine incidents of gunfire: six in Ladhikyah Governorate and three in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Mayadin, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. In total, 445 food parcels were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,833 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,609.16 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 12 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 83,253 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,515.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (11 June 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Ladhikiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Hatla, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. In total, 445 food parcels were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,834 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,611.56 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 14 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 83,267 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,515.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General

25 May 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Mr. Craig Mills, Ms. Cristal Downing, Ms. Asima Ghazi-Bouillon, Ms. Naureen Fink and Ms. Rebecca Rose have been appointed alternate representatives of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-09560 (E) 120618



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**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
13 June 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

**Identical letters dated 11 June 2018 from the Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the
President of the Security Council**

I am compelled to write to you once again, for the eleventh week in a row, to draw your attention to the ongoing critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and, more specifically, to the grave reality that continues to be faced by Palestinian civilians under Israel's military occupation.

Civilian casualties continue to be directly caused by the illegal policies and practices of the occupying Power, further traumatizing the population. On 6 June, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed 21-year-old Izz al-Din al-Tamimi, in the village of Nabi Salih, north-west of Ramallah. The youth was shot at close range with three bullets, one of them to the neck, even as he posed no direct or immediate threat to the soldiers. When Palestinian medics attempted to rescue him, Israeli forces prevented them from doing so and left Izz al-Din to bleed to death for over 30 minutes before an ambulance was allowed to arrive to carry his corpse.

What makes the killing of Izz al-Din al-Tamimi even more atrocious is that it was clearly premeditated. According to his mother, two days prior to the incident, soldiers had come to her house and told her, "we will kill your son and leave you crying". Like all Palestinians living under occupation, Izz al-Din's entire life was marked by daily violence, humiliation and oppression.

The al-Tamimi family is well known in the international arena for its peaceful activism against the Israeli occupation and its crimes against their village of Nabi Salih. Since 2009, the al-Tamimi family and villagers of Nabi Salih have carried out weekly peaceful protests against Israel's illegal wall, confiscation of land and settlement colonization. The village has been in the spotlight ever since Ahed al-Tamimi, age 16, was arrested by the occupying forces and sentenced to eight months in prison. Since then, Israeli forces have arrested and imprisoned 18 members of Ahed's direct and extended family, including six children, in a campaign of collective punishment against the village.

18-09764 (E) 200618



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The wilful killing of Izz al-Din al-Tamimi by Israel constitutes yet another crime in a pattern and long series of wilful killings of Palestinian civilians, including children, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. For this crime and all other crimes and violations perpetrated by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people, we call for full accountability.

In this regard, we must also draw your attention to the fact that casualties continue to mount in Gaza owing to Israel's ongoing aggression against peaceful Palestinian protesters. Last Friday, 8 June, the occupying Power continued its slaughter of unarmed Palestinian civilians participating in the "Great March of Return" in Gaza, bringing the total number of Palestinians killed since 30 March to 131, including 15 children. Last Friday was of particular significance to Palestinians, as it marked Jerusalem Day, a sombre commemoration of Israel's illegal annexation of East Jerusalem.

The names of those killed are Haitham al-Jamal, age 15; Ziad Jadallah Bureim, age 26; Imad Nabil Abu Darabi, age 26; and Yousef al-Fasih, age 29. Additionally, 618 protesters were wounded, more than 100 of them by live ammunition. Among those wounded were Mohammed Abdel al-Baba, a photographer for Agence France-Presse who was shot by live fire as he tried to photograph a wounded protester while wearing a press vest and helmet, and a 23-year-old man whose face was penetrated by a tear gas canister and images of whom were shared widely on social media, showing him with blood spattered on his face and shirt and clutching his throat as he struggled to breathe amid the tear gas.

The cruelty of these scenes and images was met not by condemnation from Israel, but, rather, by praise and, even more appallingly, incitement against Palestinians. Israeli Minister Avigdor Lieberman tweeted that "the determination and professionalism of IDF soldiers on the Gaza border prove themselves", while Israeli spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon described Palestinian protesters as "hateful morons" and " Hamas Jugend", the latter a play on "Hitler Youth" in German.

In this regard, we must again recall that Palestinian civilian protests against Israeli oppression are not new and that they constitute a popular initiative. Palestinians have been protesting against the unbearable conditions that they have been facing, not only since 30 March, but for decades. Palestinians, like all their other fellow human beings, are people who cannot endure decades of violent oppression, domination and control by the Israeli occupation forces without at least expressing their opposition to this in peaceful protest. It is not strange, but, rather, normal, that Palestinians would rise up to protest against the unbearable, inhumane conditions under which they have been forced to live.

As Israel persists in its wilful killing of Palestinian civilians and its callous disregard for human life, it is imperative that the international community act urgently to de-escalate the situation and prevent further assaults against Palestinian civilians. We therefore reiterate our call for the protection of the Palestinian people, for ensuring the safety and well-being of a defenceless civilian population being held captive under a more than half-century-long and a more than decade-long blockade.

In this regard, we welcome the upcoming resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly in view of the adoption of a resolution that would contribute to the efforts under way to defuse tensions, deter further violence against civilians and advance the serious consideration of measures to ensure the safety, well-being and protection of the Palestinian civilian population, beginning with a request to the Secretary-General to submit a report containing his proposals on ways and means towards this end, including, inter alia, recommendations regarding an international protection mechanism.

We appeal for the valuable and principled support of Member States for this important draft resolution, in line with their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the collective duty to protect civilians, including children, in situations of armed conflict, including this situation of foreign occupation.

Palestinians are looking to the international community for responsible and urgent action in the face of this crisis. A message should not be sent that their lives are dispensable, not worth the time of the international community, not worth protecting. It should be one that highlights the relevance of international tools to protect civilians in all circumstances and to preserve the prospects for a just peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 639 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 June 2018 (A/ES-10/785-S/2018/537), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**

Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
13 June 2018

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda items 15, 19 and 40**

**Security Council
Seventy-third year**

Culture of peace

Sustainable development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

**Letter dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit a statement (see annex) by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15, 19 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-09757 (E) 250618



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Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic

On 28 May 1918, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic — the first democracy in the Muslim world — was founded. Despite serious internal and external challenges facing the country, the ADR succeeded in setting effective State institutions, upholding the rights and freedoms of its citizens and gaining the trust of the international community. State- and democracy-building became the cornerstone and legacy of the Azerbaijani statehood.

The road to State-building began with a Declaration of Independence that affirmed the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and guaranteed universal suffrage and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. Being a Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan even surpassed the leading Western democracies in granting women the right to vote and hold office. The Government was formed on the basis of accountability and separation of powers. The democratically elected, multiparty and genuinely representative parliament of Azerbaijan has become the first of its kind in the entire Muslim Orient. In its two-year life, the Republic was governed by five executive cabinets, while the parliament held 155 meetings and discussed more than 240 legislations. Another vital pillar of the State-building process was the establishment of the Chamber of Appeals — a modern judicial system to check the legislative and executive powers.

The newly established Republic made education a primary objective. As a result of the consistent efforts to that end, the Baku State University was founded. Despite economic and political difficulties, Azerbaijan aspired for long-term human capital investment by providing scholarships for hundreds of young students to study in leading European universities. Azerbaijani was declared the official language, the national tricolour flag and anthem were adopted, a modern theatre and opera were established, Azerbaijani postage stamps were printed and national currency — manat — was issued.

Diplomatic activities within the Republic took place even before gaining independence. The leading political figures applied their first-hand diplomatic experiences within the Transcaucasian Commission and subsequently became the advocates and promoters of Azerbaijan's interests abroad. The most important foreign policy objective for the Republic was to attain international recognition and to establish diplomatic ties at a time when war-torn Europe and new international order were being formed.

Just two days after declaring independence, the newly formed Government of the ADR sent an official statement on proclamation of Azerbaijan's independence to the main world political centres. A week later, Azerbaijan signed its first friendship treaty with Turkey.

The visit to Paris of the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan, headed by Mr. Alimardan Topchubashov, to gain international recognition for the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the first major breakthrough in diplomatic relations. The members of the delegation to the Paris Peace Conference impressed foreign dignitaries by their ideas of liberty, rights and justice. Unanimous de facto recognition

of Azerbaijan was attained in January 1920 and its mission received an invitation to the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference.

At the same time, the Government had undertaken efforts towards building a competent diplomatic corps, as well as sending and receiving missions.

To counter unwarranted propaganda by Armenian nationalistic circles, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the ADR had established contacts and dialogue with peoples throughout the world. As the Caucasus was a territory largely unknown to Western public, the Armenian side launched a wide campaign based on historic deceptions to mask their territorial claims to neighbouring countries. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic also developed close ties with Azerbaijanis living abroad, effectively giving rise to the concept we now call Motherland — Diaspora relations.

In April 1919, the Allied Powers recognized the provisional General-Governorship of Karabakh, which was established by the ADR in January 1919 and included Shusha, Javanshir, Jabrayil and Zangazur provinces, with the centre in Shusha town, to be under Azerbaijani jurisdiction, and Mr. Khosrov bey Sultanov as its Governor.

In 1919, diplomatic missions of 16 States had functioned in Baku, including Belgium, France, Iran, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the USA.

However, the Bolsheviks' invasion in April 1920 put an end to the independence of the ADR. Despite serious resistance to the Bolsheviks in many parts of the country and continued efforts of the Azerbaijani delegation at the Paris Peace Conference to achieve de jure recognition and admission to the League of Nations, Soviet rule was established in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The dissolution of the USSR left Azerbaijan in deep economic crisis, dysfunctional State institutions and internal instability. Taking advantage of the situation, Armenia launched large-scale military operations on the territory of Azerbaijan to realize its groundless annexationist claims. The Armenian aggression resulted in ethnic cleansing and occupation of twenty per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan and made more than 1 million Azerbaijanis internally displaced or refugees.

The recovery and reforms process in the country had started only after 1993. Despite serious domestic problems and external pressures, national leader Mr. Heydar Aliyev managed to place Azerbaijan on a strategic path aimed at preserving the sovereignty of our country and achieving economic growth, paving the way for long-term sustainable development. Public institutions were reinstated and the first national Constitution in the history of Azerbaijan was adopted.

What had lacked in 1918 — a stable and growing economy — Azerbaijan achieved once it restored its independence in 1991. The Contract of the Century, signed in 1994, introduced a flow of investments into Azerbaijan's oil and gas sector and had remarkable multiplying effects for the economy and society. This milestone event ensured a breakthrough in oil diplomacy and can be considered as a turning point for national recovery.

The promotion of good governance and successful economic policy laid the foundation for gradual overcoming of socioeconomic problems, generating high economic performance and growth, ensuring better living standards, health care and overall prosperity.

Regrettably, while Azerbaijan has flourished in progress and well-being, twenty per cent of our territory — the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven

surrounding districts — remain occupied and viciously exploited by the Republic of Armenia. The continuing Armenian aggression prevents hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis from returning to their homes and properties in safety and dignity. Therefore, the restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is the number one priority of our foreign policy. We will continue working with our partners and global and regional international organizations with a view to mobilizing support for the just and lasting settlement of the conflict within the territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan. However, the success of the peace process depends on a constructive approach and faithful observance of international law on the part of Armenia, as well as on the active contribution of the international community.

In just two decades, Azerbaijan has risen to become a reliable international partner, in both political and economic dimensions. Rooted in transparency and predictability, Azerbaijan's foreign policy attracts mutually advantageous bilateral and multilateral relations with both regional and global powers. Encouraged by the successful implementation of oil, gas and transportation projects, such as the construction and operationalization of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum pipelines, as well as the Baku-Tbilisi-Qars railway and East-West Trans-Caspian route, Azerbaijan is increasingly viewed as a pivotal player in the region and an important actor in the international arena as an energy producer, exporter and transit country. Azerbaijan's strategic geographic location at the intersection of the major trade routes along the East-West and North-South transport and energy corridors provides an important asset to turn the country into an energy, transport and infrastructure hub.

A highly ambitious initiative on Azerbaijan's part has been the construction of the Southern Gas Corridor. In June 2018, we will be marking the inauguration of the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline, the largest portion of the Southern Gas Corridor. We look forward to operationalizing the Trans-Adriatic pipeline by next year. A key objective of these gas pipeline projects is to address Europe's energy security concerns. Once the Southern Gas Corridor is completed, gas produced from the Caspian field will be transported through the territories of Georgia, Turkey, Greece and Albania into Italy, and from where it will be distributed throughout Europe. The Southern Gas Corridor is one of the global oil and gas industry's most significant and ambitious undertakings, which has proved to be vital in developing partnerships between Azerbaijan and Europe.

Azerbaijan's role as a natural bridge between East and West creates opportunities not only in providing transport routes, but also in connecting peoples and ideas from all over the world and overcoming prejudice and intolerance. Situated on the historical crossroads between East and West, Azerbaijan has absorbed the values of both civilizations and cultures.

The idea of independence inspired by the founders of the ADR has never been forgotten. The policy pursued later by the national leader, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, strengthened and further developed the sense of national identity by reviving our deep historical and cultural memory and instilling a firm conviction in us — modern Azerbaijanis — to preserve and safeguard our independence and statehood. Treasuring Mr. Heydar Aliyev's statehood policy, the people of Azerbaijan celebrates this year the 28th of May — Republic Day — with the sense of high pride and spiritual rise. The proclamation of 2018 as the year of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, as well as the Decree by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, to ensure due commemoration of the centennial of the ADR, are vivid manifestations of the aforementioned.

Looking ahead, for us it is imperative to continue our path of conducting independent foreign policy based on proactive strategy aimed at realizing what was bequeathed by the founders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic — defending and promoting the national interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan, strengthening the country's independence and sovereignty.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 June 2018
English
Original: Russian

**General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 72 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights:
human rights questions, including
alternative approaches for improving the
effective enjoyment of human rights and
fundamental freedoms**

**Security Council
Seventy-third year**

**Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a decision and a statement issued by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning the attack carried out by the Ukrainian special services against the office of RIA Novosti-Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision of the State Duma with respect to the statement issued by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning the attack carried out by the Ukrainian special services against the office of RIA Novosti-Ukraine

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the statement issued by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning the attack carried out by the Ukrainian special services against the office of RIA Novosti-Ukraine.
2. To transmit the present decision and the aforementioned statement to the Government of the Russian Federation, the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and the parliaments of the States members of the European Union.
3. To transmit the present decision and the aforementioned statement to the Parliamentary Gazette for official publication.
4. This decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

V. V. Volodin
Chairman of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 17 May 2018
No. 3971-7 GD

**Statement issued by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of
the Russian Federation concerning the attack carried out by
the Ukrainian special services against the office of RIA
Novosti-Ukraine**

On 15 May 2018, officers of the Ukrainian Security Service raided the office of RIA Novosti-Ukraine and detained the journalist Kirill Vyshinsky.

Such actions by the authorities in Kiev against RIA Novosti-Ukraine and the employees working there are a blatant abuse of power by the Ukrainian special services. The use of force, which is usually applied to dangerous criminals, against journalists who are faithfully carrying out their work runs counter to fundamental European values. Freedom of expression and freedom of speech form an integral part of those values, as enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and in other international legal obligations.

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe to take a principled stance with regard to the multiple violations of the rights of journalists in Ukraine, and demands the immediate release of Kirill Vyshinsky by the authorities in Kiev.

V. V. Volodin
Chairman of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 17 May 2018